THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) and (b) The Integrated Counseling and Testing Centres and Ant-retroviral Treatment Centres in Maharashtra have identified 14,345 HIV positive children. The State has the largest number of HIV positive children in the country.

(c) Following steps are being taken to prevent and control HIV infection in children;

(i) Identification, counselling and prophylactic treatment to HIV positive pregnant women and new born babies;

(ii) Diagnosis of HIV positive children and provision of anti-retroviral drugs to those children eligible for treatment; and

(iii) Public awareness through various media regarding prevention of HIV transmission.

Increase in cancer cases

2085. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cancer cases are on the increase, but the treatment is beyond the reach of the common people, especially in the rural areas;

(b) whether Government is making concerted efforts for making the cancer treatment affordable and its availability even in primary health centres in the rural areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN): (a) to (d) According to the population based cancer registries under the National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP) of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), there are about nine lakh new cancer cases occurring every year in the country. The trend of cancer cases occurrence in India is rising.

The Central Government is providing financial assistance for setting up Radiotherapy Units in Government Medical colleges/hospitals for providing treatment facilities under National Cancer Control Programme. In addition, the comprehensive cancer detection and management facilities are provided by 27 Regional Cancer Centres across the country. The treatment of cancer is either free or subsidized in the Government institutions. The Government has also set up the Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund (CPF) to provide financial assistance to Below Poverty Line (BPL) cancer patients.

Increase in AIDS cases in slum areas of Delhi

†2086. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.